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# U.S. Pay Bill

## Approved By House

Congress Salaries  
Up by \$7500;  
Senate Action Next

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Staff Reporter

The House yesterday reversed itself and approved a \$535-million annual pay raise for 1.7 million Federal and District government employees and executives, including \$7500 increases for all members of Congress. The roll call vote was 243 to 157 with four members voting present.

More than 200,000 classified postal, Foreign Service, VA medical, Legislative, Judicial and District government employees in the Washington area are covered by the bill, which

would be effective for most of them at the start of the first full pay period after its enactment into law. Congressional pay raises would be effective next Jan. 1.

On March 12 the House killed a similar bill containing a \$10,000 congressional pay raise by a vote of 222 to 184. President Johnson was chiefly responsible in persuading the House to revive the bill, drafted by Rep. James H. Morrison (D-La.). The President argued that approval of the bill was necessary if the Government is to keep able executives to carry out his program.

He hailed the House action declaring:

"This is an important step in helping to maintain a high level of Government efficiency and assuring that able and experienced men and women can work for their country without a financial penalty."

The bill now goes to the Senate where the Post Office and Civil Service Committee will meet on it today. Most of the committee's nine members favor legislation similar to the Morrison bill.

An amendment by Rep. Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz.) to give proportionate increases to Members of Congress and other Federal executives automatically each time the 1.1 million classified employees are given pay raises was added to the House bill.

Morrison and Rep. Robert Corbett (R-Pa.), floor managers for the bill, accepted the amendment and agreed with Udall it would relieve members of Congress from the embarrassment of voting higher salaries for themselves.

Cabinet members, Federal judges and all other executives whose salaries are fixed

by Congress would get automatic increases in line with the average percentage voted classified workers.

All other amendments were soundly defeated. The House had not been in session more than an hour before the bill's opponents, led by Rep. H. R. Gross (R-Iowa), who called the bill "midsummer madness and fiscally irresponsible," conceded it would pass.

An amendment by Rep. August Johansen (R-Mich.) would have struck from the bill pay raises for the three Commissioners and other officials of the District of Columbia. He contended the increases were excessive and that the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, where the bill originated, had not considered them.

Chairman John McMillan of the House District Committee called for defeat of the amendment and pointed out that "five clerks" in the District Government are paid more than the three Commissioners, whose salaries are \$19,000 each. The bill provides \$27,000 for the President of the Commissioners, and \$26,500 for the two other members.

An amendment by Rep. Robert L. F. Sikes (F-Fla.) to make all raises effective next Jan. 1 drew some support. He said it did not make sense to delay raises for members of Congress until that time and he suggested it was done for "political reasons."

### Disclosure Defeated

The bill would delay until January increases that would raise any salary now above \$22,000. Members of Congress are paid \$22,500. By delaying their raises until next January they can say they voted to increase salaries of the new Congress, elected in November.

### Amendments offered by

Rep. George M. Rhodes (D-Pa.) to require members of Congress to disclose their assets and outside income, and by Paul C. Jones (D-Mo.) to dock members \$50 for each day of the congressional session they miss after July 31 of each year were quickly voted down.

The bill provides increases ranging from 1.6 to 22½ per cent for rank and file employees, or averages of 5.6 per cent for the 590,000 postal workers and 4.3 per cent for classified and related employees. Legislative employees would get an average raise of 9 per cent.

The Vice President would be raised \$8000 to \$43,000 and the Chief Justice of the United States would be raised to the same level. Associate justices of the Supreme Court would be raised \$7500 to \$42,500 and most other Federal judges also would get \$7500 increases.

### Would Set Pay Levels

Six different salary levels would be set up by the bill for Federal executives. In Level 1 would be the nine Cabinet members who would be raised \$7500 to \$32,500. In Level 2 would be the Under Secretary of State, Defense's Deputy Secretary, the administrators of AID, NASA, VA, USIA, FBI, CIA, Arms Control, Budget Bureau, and the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Council of Economic Advisors and the Federal Reserve Board. They would be paid \$30,000 salaries.

In Level 3 (\$29,000) would be the under secretaries of all other Cabinet agencies, plus the Secretaries of Army, Navy, Air Force and the heads of large independent agencies such as Federal Aviation, General Services, etc.

The bill gives the President authority to assign other officials in levels 4, 5 and 6 that would pay \$28,000, \$27,000 and \$26,000 respectively.

The top career salary, Grade 18 of the classified service, now pays a flat \$20,000 and it would be raised to \$22,000 immediately after the bill is enacted into law and then to \$24,500 next January.